

(d) Whether CBI has sought necessary permission for filing the chargesheets against some officials; and

(e) If so, the details of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A few cases of irregularity have come to the notice in the award of various contracts for gauge conversion works on different Railways, which are being/ have been investigated by the Railway Vigilance and the CBI.

CBI have taken up 6 cases for investigation where prima-facie irregularities in award of the contracts have been detected. The matter is being pursued with the CBI for early completion of the investigation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Borrowing of Funds

*193. SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has borrowed crores of rupees from the public through the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the amount borrowed, the year of borrowing, date of maturity with interest and purpose for which it was borrowed; and

(c) the manner in which the Railway propose to finance the huge amount?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The desired information is as under:

Amount borrowed (Rs./Cr.)	Year of borrowing	Date of Maturity	Purpose
959.40	1987-88	April 97 & Feb. 98	These funds are
600.00	1988-89	Feb-March, 1999	used for
1000.00	1989-90	Dec. 1999 & Jan. 2000	procurement of
1170.00	1990-91	Aug. 2000 & Mar. 2001	Railway Rolling
1500.00	1991-92	July & Nov. 2001	Stock assets.
Nil	1992-93		
740.71	1993-94	March 1999 & March, 2001	
206.50	1994-95	Oct. 2001 & January, 2002	
259.32	1995-96	Sept. 2002 to March, 2003	
6435.93			

Note: (1) In addition to the above, Indian Railway Finance Corporation raised USD 70 million through External Commercial Borrowing during 1995-96 and 1996-97 for import of capital goods by Indian Railways. These will become due for repayment in March, 2003.

(2) The interest payable to the Bond-holders, possessing non-cumulative Bonds, is paid half-yearly. Those who hold cumulative Bonds will be paid interest along with the value of their Bonds on maturity as per the scheme.

(c) The funds are invested in the rolling stock which is given on lease to the railways. The Lease Rentals paid by the Railways to the Indian Railway Finance Corporation include interest and principal recovery enabling the Corporation to service the lenders as well as redeem the bonds on maturity.

[Translation]

Hike in the Fares of AI and IA

*194. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the fares of Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the increased fares are proposed to be made effective; and

(c) the difference between the fares of the Indian Airlines and that of private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) So far as Indian Airlines is